

# **NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Block Island School**

**November 19, 2007**

**7:00 P.M.**

**The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, November 19, 2007, in the media center of the Block Island School. Superintendent Leslie Ryan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Shea Butcher, Annie Hall, Sean McGarry, William Padien, and Richard Tretheway.**

## **Annual Meeting**

**William Padien was nominated for chairperson by Shea Butcher; the nomination was seconded by Annie Hall. Being no further nominations, the vote was 5-0\* to approve William Padien as chairperson. (\*Vote was incorrectly recorded on November 19 and was amended to read 4-0 at December 18, 2007, meeting.)**

**Annie Hall was nominated for secretary by Sean McGarry; the nomination was seconded by Shea Butcher. Being no further nominations, the vote was 5-0 to approve Annie Hall as secretary.**

## **Approval of Minutes**

**A motion (Hall, Padien) to approve the minutes of the meetings held on October 15 and November 1, 2007, as presented carried with a**

**vote of 5-0.**

## **Reports**

**Mr. McGarry reported that the state legislature is working on several issues, including changing the general powers and duties of the School Committee and developing a funding formula for state aid. Rhode Island is one of two states that does not have a funding formula. If this is passed by the legislature, Block Island could realize an increase in state funding of around \$500,000.00, which would come from the urban school districts. However, the legislature and RIASC are against adopting this funding formula in the next session. Also being discussed in the legislature is the consolidation of school districts. Currently there are 36 districts and the legislature would like to reduce it to six. It was noted that 100 years ago there were 175 districts. However, due to Block Island's geographic location we would be excluded from the consolidation.**

**William Padien reported that Annie Hall, Sean McGarry, and he attended the Town Council's joint meeting with the Block Island Housing Board, the Medical Center, and the School Committee to discuss the possible uses for the Faulkner and Davidson properties. Two suggestions for the Faulkner property were to develop it into an athletic field and for affordable or teacher/employee housing. Mr. Padien reminded them that several years ago the school completed a study where it would cost \$560,000 to turn the Faulkner property into a soccer/baseball field, but he thinks the cost would probably be**

twice that now. Nancy Dodge suggested that funds be placed in the town budget for an engineering study on what it would cost to fix the drainage. Mr. Padien was hoping that the School Committee's Faulkner property sub-committee, which was created in April, would be able to formulate some response to the town.

Mr. Padien stated that Joe Sprague is planning on completing the handicap ramp and the concrete slab outside the shop over the Thanksgiving weekend. The outside basketball stanchions will be installed when the drainage work is completed, probably over the Christmas vacation. Annie Hall stated that she has a problem with having had to wait two years to have the basketball hoops installed. It was suggested that the students write to Mr. Sprague to explain how anxious they are to be able to play basketball outside during recess.

Mr. Padien stated that the solar light that was installed yesterday doesn't seem to be working, but it will be adjusted. He requested that the lights outside the kindergarten be turned on every afternoon.

Arbitration with H.V. Collins Company was originally set for December 7, but Mr. Padien recently learned it has been postponed with no new date set.

Matthew Moran submitted a written athletic report that included the final record for each soccer team. The varsity team finished the

season with a 6-5 record against a wide range of competition, the 7-9 team had a record of 2-4, and the 5-6 team finished with a 1-3 record. Basketball practice for all four teams began last week. There will be no freshman girls' basketball team this year as planned because only three of the girls are playing and they will be included on the junior high team.

Dr. Irving reported on the following:

- On November 1 Joanne Warfel delivered our PBGR work to RIDE. The way she put our work together was a piece of art.
- The first quarter came to a successful close and honor roll certificates will be handed out during lunch tomorrow.
- On November 19 Shirley Hendrix, a representative from RIDE, spent several hours with the teachers who needed to develop I-Plans. Kristine Monje has been trained and is now our I-Plan coordinator.
- The school has been filled with the wonderful aroma of freshly baked pies thanks to the Block Island School Friends preparing for its annual pie sale.
- On November 26 Nancy Strictland, an admissions officer at URI, will meet with seniors regarding the college application process.
- On November 28 Kaleidoscope Theater will present a program on bullying. Parents are welcome to attend.
- Ten families have agreed to participate in the Save a Watt program. A letter will be sent home shortly to explain the contest.
- Kudos to the high school students for the successful fund raising they did this fall.

- **Block Island School's Article 31 proposal, which was reviewed by the PAC before it was submitted, has been approved by RIDE.**
- **Megan Hennessy is busy preparing for the annual holiday program, which has been scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 19.**
- **Mid-term exams are being scheduled for the week of January 15. Most of the senior class will be at Close-Up at that time and will take mid-terms the week before.**

**Mrs. Ryan reported that the School Improvement Team (SIT) has been having monthly meetings. They are in the process of developing three goals with action plans to support those goals.**

**Mrs. Ryan recently attended a Special Education workshop in Newport where the conflicting ideas between NCLB and IDEA were discussed. She plans to explain this further at the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for November 28.**

**Mrs. Ryan met with Shannon Cotter, Doug Hoyt, and Sue Shea to develop the 2008 calendar, Block Island through the Eyes of a Child, using the photos taken last spring by our students. It will be available for sale within the next couple of weeks.**

**Mrs. Ryan explained that if parents have questions on instruction and pupil personnel services they should speak to the teacher and, then if necessary, to Dr. Irving. If there are questions on a student with an**

**IEP, parents should speak to the case manager and, then if necessary, to the Special Education Director. She will be sending a letter to parents explaining the above protocol.**

### **Old Business**

**A motion (Padien, Butcher) to approve Policy FBP: Cooperative Work Study/Internship Program as written, to go into effect immediately, carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**A motion (Padien, Tretheway) to approve Policy GQ: Alcohol and Drug Free School as written, to go into effect immediately, carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**A motion (Padien, hall) to approve Policy IA-2: Attendance (Grades K-7) as written, to go into effect at the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year, carried with a vote of 3-2 with Shea Butcher and Sean McGarry voting in the negative. Mr. McGarry feels this policy is too restrictive in requiring a home schooling program after a five-day absence and thinks perhaps the other absences could be unexcused. This policy will be addressed again next month because the vote was not unanimous.**

**A motion (Padien, McGarry) to approve Policy II: Kindergarten Admission as written and to take effect with the 2008-2009 school year carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**William Young reported that he was withdrawing his request for additional funding for the Close-Up trip to Washington, DC because the fund raising was so successful. He stated that he found the community support for this program incredible.**

### **New Business**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to post Policy FBF-1: High School Proficiency Based Graduation for the required 30 days carried with a vote of 5-0. Mrs. Ryan stated that this policy may require future changes depending on the feedback from RIDE.**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to post Policy IAA: High School Tardy for the required 30-day period with the changes made carried with vote of 5-0. Dr. Irving stated that the change would allow the administration some flexibility.**

**A request was received from John and Kerri Spier to home school their children (David, Samuel, and Selena) from February through June 2008. Mr. and Mrs. Spier met with Dr. Irving and provided information on the curriculum they intend to follow for each child. A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve John and Kerri Spier's request of to home school their children from February through June 2008 carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**A motion (Hall, Tretheway) to approve Kathleen Mello's request for a 10-week maternity leave beginning in January 2008 carried with a**

**vote of 5-0.**

**A motion (Hall, Padien) to approve Victoria Carson's request for tuition reimbursement, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the School Committee/Teachers' Contract, for courses she would like to take through University of Phoenix (Assessment of the Handicapped) and Fresno Pacific University (Cross-training and Physical Education) carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**A motion (Padien, Butcher) to consent to the appointment of Megan Hennessy as the K-12 music teacher for the remainder of the 2007-2008 school year carried with a vote of 5-0. It was noted that Ms Hennessy has been working since October 29 and was appointed pending approval by the School Committee. She has been placed on Step 8 of the salary scale (pro-rated for the late start) and receives a stipend for advanced study.**

**A motion (Hall, Padien) to consent to the appointment of John Tarbox as the assistant coach for the Junior High Boys' Basketball team carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the letter from James Nadeau & Company to provide auditing services for FY 08 and 09 and to authorize the chair to sign carried with a vote of 4-0, with Shea Butcher having recused himself.**



## **Calendar of Events**

**A calendar of events for the months of November and December 2007 was submitted for School Committee information. The next regular School Committee meeting is scheduled for December 17.**

## **Correspondence**

**Various pieces of correspondence were submitted for School Committee information.**

## **Adjournment**

**A motion (Padien, Tretheway) at 8:51 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk**

**Date approved: December 18, 2007**